



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/655,223	09/05/2000	John Clare William Scott	148/244	7763

7590 02/07/2003

Adam Schwartz & Evans P A  
2180 Two First Union Center  
Charlotte, NC 28282

EXAMINER

WEINSTEIN, STEVEN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1761	

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/655223  
Applicant(s) SCOTT ET AL  
Examiner SWAINE STEIN  
Group Art Unit 1761

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
 This action is FINAL.  
 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.  
 Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
 Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 Claim(s) 1-26 are subject to restriction or election requirement

### Application Papers

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.  
 The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner  
 The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).  
 All  Some\*  None of the:  
 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received  
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_  Interview Summary, PTO-413  
 Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892  Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152  
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948  Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Action Summary

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-25, drawn to a method of preventing gaseous eruption from a liquid during vacuum packaging, classified in class 426, subclass 404.
- II. Claim 26, drawn to a packaged product, classified in class 426, subclass 106.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

The package as claimed in Group II can be made by various ways including gas absorbents.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art requiring separate searches as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes is proper.

In addition, if applicants elect Group I, the method claims, the following election of species is also required.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I, wherein the liquid is treated by evacuation

Species II, wherein the liquid is treated by cooking

Species III, wherein the liquid is treated by freezing

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable

thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

To reiterate, applicants are required to elect either Invention I or Invention II and if Invention I is elected, applicant is required to elect either Species I, Species II or Species III.

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Steven Weinstein whose telephone number is 703-308-0650. The examiner can generally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 703-308-3959. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

S. Weinstein/mn  
February 4, 2003

*Steve Weinstein*  
STEVE WEINSTEIN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER 1761  
2/7/03